



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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03/05/2013 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
 MARCH 5, 2013 MEETING

SPY POND COMMITTEE
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Bill Eykamp, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob & Harriet Noyes, Stroker Rogovin, Nathaniel Stevens (Con Com), Wayne Chouinard (DPW). Facilitator: Brad Barber
 Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

2013 meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 2, April 30 instead of May, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5. Dec. 1. Town Hall Annex, first floor.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

Winter observations at Spy Pond: The ice was safe for skating for just one day. Now there is open water and mergansers are back; two red-tailed hawks were seen on the island and coyotes have been heard howling.

The warrant article for the water bodies fund has been unanimously recommended by the Finance Committee and is ready for Town Meeting.

The fertilizer flyer is done; copies were passed around. It will be distributed by high school students and via the Neighborhood Newsletter, before the EcoFest on March 23.

Brad has heard that lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus cannot be sold in Massachusetts. This statement raised so many eyebrows that Brad will check into the exact law.

Wayne Chouinard is planning a second series on stormwater in the summer of 2013 and asked for suggestions for specific topics to be covered. Future fertilizer flyers should include the phone number to call if people notice any illegal discharge. He mentioned that Lexington has outfall monitoring teams and this may be a good idea for Arlington too.

Some leaching catchbasins are being installed on the Belmont side of Rt. 2.

Trails Day (May 11) will follow the same model as in previous years. Start publicity now.

EcoFest (March 23) displays will include the Secchi disk model used at Town Day 2012. Handouts can include the leftover door hangers (we have about 500, not enough to go with the fertilizer flyer), a quiz and bird list, and publicity about Trails Day.

The ACT report on the condition last summer of Spy Pond, the Reservoir, and Hills Pond has been received by DPW and a few copies were passed around. ACT recommends a mild alum treatment annually for Spy Pond to remove the dissolved phosphorus in the water column.

Wayland pond: Its committee meets May 7, when we don't, so some of our members could visit. This pond has somewhat different problems, being in an area with septic tanks rather than sewers. "Sonar" has been used on it about four times in the last 30 years, plus triclopyr for spot treatment. Milfoil is combated by pulling because "Sonar" does not kill established root crowns. The annual budget is about \$30-40,000.